

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

There are no outstanding formal matters.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected as obvious over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of TAYLOR et al. 5,430,256.

The claims have been amended to specific, e.g., claim 1, that the invention comprises an electric cord comprising a plurality of wires which electrically connect a vibrator and an input terminal to which a drive signal for driving the vibrator is inputted, wherein each wire comprises a plurality of uninsulated core threads, the plurality of wires flow the same electric current, and the respective wires are electrically insulated from each other.

In claim 8, the new recitation is "each of the wires is constituted by a plurality of adjacently contacting uninsulated core threads and a conductor wound on the surface of the plurality of core threads".

In claim 9, the new recitation is "each wire comprising: a center core formed by a plurality of uninsulated core threads twisted upon each other".

As noted above, applicants have respectfully amended independent claims 1, 8, and 9 in order to overcome the obviousness rejection. Support can be found in the description

of page 7, lines 23-26 and page 9, lines 20-23 of the specification, and Figures 4 and 7 as originally filed.

In the AAPA, although a plurality of wires (1a) each obtained by winding a conductor (12) on a plurality of core threads (11) are twisted, woven, or bundled to form a wire rod (1b), the plurality of the wires (1a) are not uninsulated each other. The wire (1a) of the electric cord (1) is not insulated from an adjacent wire (1a), and the respective wires (1a) are in contact with adjacent wires (1a) with predetermined contact resistance.

See the prior art description on specification page 1, lines 18-26 together with the first full paragraph of specification page 2. From this disclosure, it is clear that the minimum wire unit (1a) is not insulated at all.

In TAYLOR, however, core bundle (B) comprises of plurality of strands of insulated wire (10) bundled in a twisted configuration. Each individual strand comprises insulation 12. See Figure 1 and column 2, lines 33-37.

U.S. Patent

July 4, 1995

5,430,256

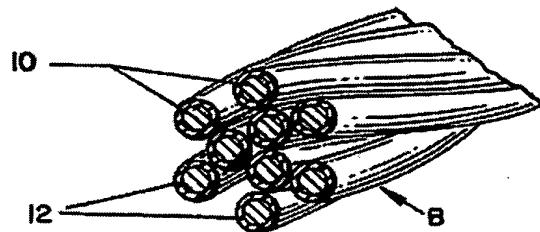


FIG. 1.

The seven bundles are enclosed within a fluoropolymer jacket (14). See Figure 2 and column 2, lines 40-43. That is, the minimum units of an electric cord are isolated each other. Figure 2 is reproduced below.

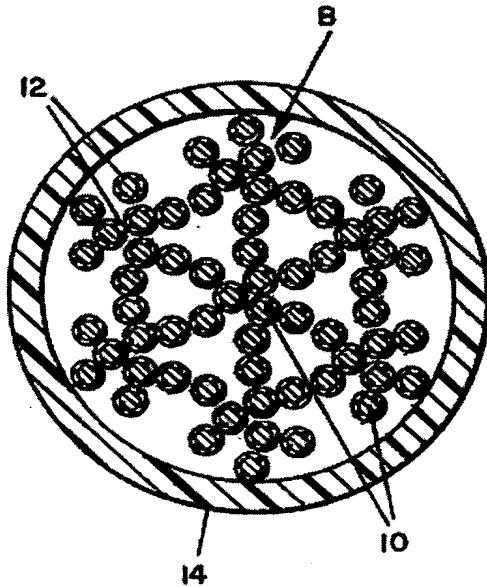


FIG. 2.

In contrast, in the present invention, the core threads (21) are not insulated within each wire (2a). Rather, each wire (2a) is insulated from adjacent wires (2a) by the outer insulated wire conductor (22, 23) as shown by, e.g., Figure 5 or by outer insulated wire conductor (32, 33) as shown by, e.g., Figure 8.

Thus, the difference between TAYLOR and the present application is whether a minimum unit of a wire is insulated or not. Even if the skilled person in this field combine TAYLOR with AAPA, he or she would produce an electric cord formed with a

plurality of insulated core threads as taught by TAYLOR, not an electric cord by winding a conductor on the surface of a plurality of uninsulated core threads.

As pointed out by the Official Action, the teaching of TAYLOR is to insulate each of the individual core threads. Therefore, the teaching of TAYLOR would lead one of skill to modify the AAPA of Figures 1-3 to insulate each of the individual threads. As the teaching of TAYLOR is in direct contrast to the invention's recited structure, one cannot say that the presently-pending claims are obvious. Therefore, the present application is believed to be patentable over AAPA in view of TAYLOR.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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